



Distinguished Toastmasters Program

District 10 DTM Bash!

Friday, October 2nd, 2020

Virtual Event

CONGRATULATIONS

to all District 10 DTMs!

Did you know:

- Toastmasters International (TI) has 364,000 members, in over 145 countries, with over 16,200 clubs.
- According to TI, as of September 2020, *fewer than 3% of all members ever achieve their DTM.*

It takes the following to achieve a Distinguished Toastmaster award (DTM):



Traditional Program Requirements:

- 42 Speeches
- 4 Educational Presentations
- 1 Success/Leadership, Success/ Communication, or Youth Leadership Workshop
- 6 Months as a club officer
- 1 Year as a district officer
- Serve as a club sponsor, mentor, or coach
- Complete a High Performance Leadership Project

Pathways Program Requirements:

- 2 learning paths (35-40 Speeches)
- 1 year as a club officer
- 1 year as a district officer
- Serve as a club mentor or coach
- Serve as a club sponsor, conduct a Speechcraft, or conduct a Youth Leadership program
- Complete the DTM project

Message from District Director, Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM



Dear District 10 DTMs,

It is an honor to stand together with you today in celebration of excellence and achievement at our first virtual DTM Bash! Our collective response to persevere during this pandemic has proven we have the strength and ability to elevate ourselves and our district beyond what we previously imagined. The sheer creativity and innovation I have witnessed across our district this year has been inspiring.

You are the leaders who have emerged despite the obstacles and amidst the changes.

You have forged ahead to the finished line and for that,

You are to be commended!

We have come together to lift one another up.

We have come together to celebrate each one of you.

I would like to give special thanks to our Program Quality Director, Distinguished Toastmaster, Tricia Spayer and her dedicated team of organizers - DTM Chair, Anna Ho; Emcee/Cohost, DTM Lisa Newburger; Zoom Master, DTM Eugene Schnell; Zoom Master, David Yung; Zoom Master/PR Manager, Sandra Orland; and DTM Program Layout Designer, Wendy Fedan for this special event tonight to **recognize each one of you**.

Congratulations to District 10's Distinguished Toastmasters

Fall Class of 2020

Let's capture this moment and celebrate!

#TogetherWeAreMore

#EmbraceD10online

Yours in leadership, District 10 Director

Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM

2020-2021

Emmanuel Agbovi, DTM



Cleveland Club

Twinspirations
Toastmasters Club

"Practice makes perfect" is what I often tell my girls when I witness them both struggling or excelling at something, however I put more emphasis on the "practice." We become better communicators and stronger leaders when we make a conscious decision to learn, practice, listen and apply. Practicing our communication and leadership, being willing to take a risk is what increases our acumen over time.

Toastmasters International has been the place for me to learn, practice, receive feedback, improve, learn again and the cycle keeps going.

My passion is centered around education, especially education in Africa. I've been involved in community development and promoting education in Africa for the past 13+ years. My non-profit organization, **Developing Africa Together or DAT** completed the construction of an elementary school in Togo, West Africa and another building project to start within the next 24 months. The skills I've learned in Toastmasters have helped me plan, build and lead a strong team of talented individuals to complete this construction project. My High-Performance Leadership (HPL) project was about setting up a non-profit corporation and obtaining 501(c)(3) tax exemption status. That project included writing bylaws, creating an article of incorporation, putting together a Board of Directors and now managing this non-profit.

My firm belief is that proper development programs, training and empowerment, African communities will reach a new level of growth. I too believe, as **Nelson Mandela** once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world."

I would like to thank my wife Mary for supporting me in this journey as we juggle home life against my attendance at club meetings, leading our area 11 last year as their Director and now as 2020-2021 Central Division Director. Shout out to my home club **Cleveland Club 351** and my second club **Twinspirations TM Club 2291177**.

I'm very grateful, thankful and blessed.

Deborah Bonner, DTM



Living Truth Center
Toastmasters

Top of the Town Advanced
Toastmasters

Citadel of Hope
Toastmasters

CWRU Toastmasters

I joined Toastmasters in April 2007 as a Charter Member of the Living Truth Center Toastmasters.

I had no idea at that time of the impact that Toastmasters would have on my personal and professional life. My increased confidence in my communication skills made it possible for me to compete in club, area, and division contests.

Professionally, I was presented with opportunities to speak at a number of community and agency wide forums.

I am grateful for the educational and leadership tracks that allowed me to hone my skills throughout this journey to DTM.

In addition to my home club, Living Truth Center Toastmasters, I am a proud member of Top of the Town Advanced Toastmasters, Citadel of Hope Toastmasters, and CWRU Toastmasters.

I am the current Area 52 Director, and I enjoy the interaction with all of the clubs I visit.

There are so many people to thank throughout District 10; too many to name individually. Thanks to District 10 members for your support, your friendship, and your spirit of camaraderie. Keep up the great work!

Louisajayne "LJ" Dalton, DTM



Downtown Toastmasters

Louisajayne Dalton – better known as “L J” has always enjoyed speaking in front of an audience, starting at a young age. In 1998, after accepting a position at Haven of Rest Ministries to create and manage their new Career Development Division, she was encouraged to join Toastmasters by a business associate. In 2000, her Club honored her as Toastmaster of the Year. One of her favorite memories is sponsoring a new club – Ghent Road Toastmasters, now known as White Pond Toastmasters.

ALL members of Downtown Toastmasters #1894 deserve a special shout-out from L J. In her words, “They kept cheering me on to finish the race in spite of all life threw at me these last few years.” A special “hats off” to Len McKay, Charter Member of the Club, Tom Khoury – who invited her to join Toastmasters, and Dennis Deegan, DTM Mentor for keeping her focused and on track. My encouragers through the final lap: Joanna Butler, Marcie Dickey, Logan Page, DTM, Larry Griffin, Maggie DeMellier, Rich Roberts, and DeNica Bishop.

Her continued growth in Toastmasters has given her the confidence and skills to speak at several national and regional Conventions and Conferences for the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions. While serving as the education and Vocational Network Coordinator, she created training conferences to help others in her field better serve the homeless population to obtain employment, as well as developing reference manuals for staff to use in this endeavor.

L J uses her leadership skills as Coordinator of Women's Ministry for her church, The Chapel in Marlboro. As part of the staff at Haven of Rest, L J is also a part of their Women's Auxiliary. In 2019, L J was chosen as the Woman of the Year.

L J has collected Turtles since she was 16 and now has a collection of over 1000! She believes that if something is really important to you, you need to make time to get it done. Turtles win the race because of their steady pace, even though it may be slower than others.

Jessica Corinne DeMuth, DTM



Toastmasters of Wickliffe

Lubrizol Toastmasters

Toastmasters has truly provided me the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and become a confident public speaker.

I am extremely grateful for the people who have helped me to develop these skills and accomplish DTM on my Toastmasters journey. I would like to thank Mary Jo Turley, Dalton Lunga, Daneli López-Pérez, Soon Park, and all the members of my first Toastmasters club Tecumseh Toastmasters who gave me an opportunity to learn what it means to be a leader in a great team. I would like to thank Dan Minder, Vicky Nann, Tony Green, and co-coach Amy Fahnestock who helped me coach the Toastmasters of Wickliffe Club to success during a non-conventionally challenging year. I would lastly like to thank the Lubrizol Toastmasters Club, Phil Holy, Ray Harris, Kendra Farrell, and Betsy Stafford who assisted me with my high performance leadership project to develop a mentorship program and continue to teach me how to become an effective leader.

The skills I have learned in my Toastmasters experience has also helped me to pay it forward and successfully lead other non-profit volunteer organizations to create the collaborative and supportive environment required for success.

Amy Fahnestock, DTM



Being a Toastmaster during the past 25 years has enriched my life with incredible friendships, bolstered my confidence, and taught me how to turn mistakes into positives.

My mentors deserve special recognition: Penny Harrison, Pat Vincent, Debra Richardson, Nancy Temple, Jim Murphy, Mark Timm, Vicky Nann, Tony Green, and especially the late Charlie Greenman and Roy Whipple. Many thanks to all of the members of my clubs through the years.

My best tip: Think of your list of speech ideas as a garden. Tend it well and you will always have blooms to pick from when you need to.

Western Reserve
Toastmasters Club

Eastside Advanced
Toastmasters

The Toastmasters of
Wickliffe

Chardon Toastmasters

Larry Goldsmith, DTM



Marion 2020

Larry has a background in theatre and joined Toastmasters to balance out the technical aspect of his career with creativity and fun. He started at the Nationwide Insurance Toastmasters club 753 in Downtown Columbus (District 40) in April 2004.

Highlights and Accomplishments:

Larry uses his Toastmasters' skills to help judge youth speech competitions for the North South Foundation.

Working with Toastmasters in Correctional Facilities:

Larry joined one of the two correctional institution clubs in Area 30 to handle their finances and helped the club become President's Distinguished in 2018-2019.

Members in correctional facilities gain communication skills to:

- Tell their stories to troubled teens
- Help youth of tomorrow avoid the same mistakes
- Apply for and get a good job upon their release
- Speak more intelligently

In addition to regular club meetings, the clubs hold unofficial speech contests and debate competitions in which he has been happy to join and participate.

Larry loves the advantages of working with different clubs, seeing their best ideas and taking that knowledge into other struggling clubs. He encourages members to serve as district leaders.

Larry is celebrating his "two" DTM awards tonight!

Karen Haines, DTM



Chagrin Valley
Toastmasters

Garfield Heights
Toastmasters

Toastmasters became a part of my life in August 2013 when I joined a corporate club. It was a great opportunity to grow in leadership and communication. Currently I am a member of Chagrin Valley and Garfield Heights Toastmasters.

Two high points of my time in Toastmasters were:

- 1) Developing my interviewing and communication skills that led to accepting a job opportunity as a Lead Systems Analyst.
- 2) High Performance Leadership project opportunity that allowed me to engage a community leader through speaking at an Open House.

I would especially like to thank my husband for graciously listening when I needed to practice my speeches. He supported my efforts toward achieving DTM. My inspiration was derived from memories of my family life, other members and people I have met before and during my tenure.

I want to thank Vicki Nann, Loren Dill and Dan Minder for inspiring me to continue working toward my DTM. Thank you to all that listened and supported me through the challenges.

The best advice I can give about this journey of achieving the DTM is be tenacious. If you have obstacles to get through Toastmasters members will offer their support. You can achieve anything if you are motivated.

Lenroy Jones, DTM



Mount Vernon Club

Wayne County
Toastmasters Club

Big Blue Toastmaster Club
(District 40)

44805 Toastmasters Club
#7702811 (Ashland
University)

Lenroy Jones is **thankful** to have received this award! He gives **credit** and dedicates this award to his late Aunt Toastmaster Alexis Wyatt Williams who was lost to the coronavirus. He plans to **use** this to continue building on his leadership skills and diversity competencies that this organization sharpens. **Thank** you! T-CUT 😊

The Distinguished Toastmaster is the greatest honor earned by a member of Toastmasters International. Lenroy never had aspirations to receive such an award. He started with Toastmasters because he viewed this organization as a means for students at The University of Kentucky to achieve his/her career destination. Clearly, this international organization is a way for college students and alike to gain a competitive advantage on their road to successful careers as well as life.

Lenroy would like to especially thank his mentor Distinguished Toastmaster Steve Lanham who made the initial investments that encouraged him to lay a foundation of integrity, teamwork, embracing the diversity of the membership, and having fun. Steve has always been just a phone call or email away. Lenroy says, "Steve always responds and is a great resource."

A special expression of gratitude to district officers and club members who have provided their support over the years from District 10 and where he started - District 40. Big shout outs: Michele LaBasi from the club that he was a part of chartering Thursday Night Toastmasters, Lisa Newburger, Lenard Taylor, and Tony Green.

Outside of Toastmasters, Lenroy enjoys spending time with family, reading, fishing, hunting, and a good sunset or sunrise. He is looking forward to publishing his first book on long-term unemployment very soon.

Snehalatha Mannar, DTM



Progressively Speaking

Speak to Lead
Toastmasters

Progressive Insurance
Advanced Toastmasters
Club

Why did I Join Toastmasters?

To avoid speaking fast and to keep up confidence in front of my audience.

Who pushed me to new heights?

- My mentor **Sravanthi Vallampati** planted the DTM seed in me.
- My **family** watered the seed everyday.
- My friend **Wendi Polman** who is always there for me.
- Glory to **God** alone for putting them in my path!

Home Club: Progressively Speaking

Challenging Experience: Reviving the struggling clubs in my area. Helping them to help themselves.

Rewarding Experience: Leading clubs in my area (Area 22) during COVID-19 and getting the Area to Distinguished status.

Tom Mazanec, DTM



Twinspirations Toastmasters

Tom is an amazing anomaly. He deviates from the norm in so many ways. He has a mind that will not quit. He is mesmerized by the Universe and because he is so curious, he did a speech about what future space travel will look like. It was out of this world.

He is a science fiction aficionado, interested in everything the future has in store for us. He did speeches about 3 D printing, and self-driving cars and knows all about the space telescope that will soon replace the Hubble. Color Tom curious and full of wonder.

He loves the Rock 'n Roll music era and listens to his favorite tunes all day long on his own radio station. You would not believe how he knows the words of so many songs by heart.

Until recently you would have seen Tom frequently at the Twinsburg library, participating in numerous creative programs, including Open Mic on Wednesday nights. He asked if he could sing even though he did not play an instrument. "Of course," they said. He sang some of his favorite Beatle tunes and Christmas songs a cappella.

Toastmasters fits in with Tom's adventuresome approach to life. Despite being on the Autism spectrum, Tom surprised himself and his family that he had it within himself to meet the rigorous demands of the DTM education track.

Twinspirations Toastmasters members provided some mentor support to get him over the finish line. He felt a little guilty about it, until it was explained to him convincingly that Toastmasters is a 'team sport.' He put on a big smile and felt much better about achieving his DTM award. Color Tom humble & incredibly happy.

Vicky Nann, DTM



Vicky Nann is a slow-starter. It took her ten years to find a Toastmasters mentor, and 14 years to earn her first DTM. But once she got started – well, let's just say she's been keeping busy and having fun. Now in her 21st year as a Toastmaster, she's more enthusiastic than ever.

Vicky is grateful to all of the caring, supportive people who have helped her along the way, and she is honored to give back by serving wherever members, clubs, or districts have a need. She wishes to thank her husband for listening to her talk about Toastmasters A LOT, and for not complaining too much when she gives up her weekend for a Toastmasters event. He knows how much this wonderful organization and its members mean to her.

Vicky's favorite Toastmasters quote is from the organization's first female international president, Helen Blanchard, aka Homer Blanchard: "If you get out of Toastmasters all there is to get out of Toastmasters, you'll never get out of Toastmasters."

Vicky is currently a member of Medina Toastmasters, Medina Leaders Speak, Central (Akron) Advanced, and The Toastmasters of Wickliffe.

Medina Toastmasters

Medina Leaders Speak

Central (Akron) Advanced

The Toastmasters of
Wickliffe

Catherine Peterson, DTM



Catherine Peterson joined Toastmasters a little over six years ago, and has loved every minute of her journey leading her to this DTM designation.

She has served in multiple club officer roles, as Area 14 Director, and is the current Southern Division Director.

Her favorite moments are more than just the leadership and communication lessons she has learned, but the lifelong friends that she has met along the way.

She has a background in theater and works at the JOANN Fabric corporate office in the print department. She is currently a member of Cuyahoga Falls, Akron 151, and Central Akron Advanced.

Cuyahoga Falls

Akron 151

Central Akron Advanced

Csilla Smith, DTM



Independently Speaking
Toastmasters

Garfield Heights
Toastmasters

I joined Toastmasters to improve my public speaking skills, confidence and to conquer my intense dislike to speak in front of a group of people. I was also seeking to join a group or club to meet new people. I was drawn to Toastmasters by the camaraderie, friendly banter and good humored razzing at my very first Toastmasters meeting at Independently Speaking. A number of Toastmasters have challenged and pushed me to new heights including Pete Punwani and Mary Foster with their excellent speaking abilities and encouraging words.

I determined to complete my DTM this year as the traditional program was phased out June 30th. COVID hit and added to my challenge and as a bonus, I learned to speak online where Zoom fast became a familiar friend. I have learned by experience that technology can be an unpredictable element in public speaking and at times a blessing and a curse. It was a rewarding and growing experience to plan, organize and execute my HPL project involving a dozen fellow toastmasters, who all contributed to the success of the project.

A big thank you to both of my clubs for their support during my DTM path and a special thanks to Sharon Stadul for her belief in my abilities and mentoring my DTM path; Vicky Nann for her support and encouragement; Greg Danko for his willingness to schedule me to speak often (probably too often) this year and for the ongoing element of humor he adds to each club meeting; and John Kavouras for his unending uplifting, positive and encouraging demeanor. The path to Toastmasters DTM status has improved my public speaking abilities, built my confidence and I now look forward to speaking in front of a group of people. As a bonus I have met a great group of encouraging, friendly, fun people who express themselves extraordinarily well.

Alicia Smith-Kirk, DTM



Westlake Toastmasters
497

CWRU Spartans
Toastmasters

Top of the Town Advanced
Toastmasters

Alicia Smith-Kirk joined Toastmasters in 2012 to improve her communication and leadership skills. Four years later, in 2016, with the support of her Westlake Toastmasters 497 Club and other District 10 leadership mentors, she earned her first Distinguished Toastmasters Award in the Traditional Program.

Driven by her passion for learning, over the next four years, Alicia earned her second DTM in the new Pathways Program; a robust digital learning experience launched in 2017. These awards are the evidence of a personal and professional growth journey that, she says, has changed her life.

Several skills Toastmasters has helped her improve are active listening, openness, trust, partnerships, outcome driven negotiations, team building across diverse communities and understanding the power of engaged mentorship. Alicia has consistently led, mentored, or coached leaders and clubs to distinguished, or better status every year of her membership over the past 8 years.

Her successful leadership roles include all seven cub officer roles, Area Director, Division Director, Club Coach, Pathways Guide, Club Growth Director, Program Quality Director, and she currently serves as District 10 Director.

As a proud member and leader of District 10, Alicia is an active member of three clubs: Westlake Toastmasters 497, CWRU Spartans Toastmasters, and Top of the Town Advanced Toastmasters.

Her advice: "Success is measured on outcomes but gained in the journey. The best outcomes are derived from one's willingness to be a teacher and a student along the way."

Jenilee Grabenhorst Taylor, DTM



Cuyahoga Falls
Toastmasters

Akron 151

Rise Higher (District 40)

Jenilee Grabenhorst Taylor joined Toastmasters in May of 2007, and gave her icebreaker at that first meeting because the club members told her that was "what she was supposed to do."

This is why she lives by the motto: never turn down an opportunity to speak! Toastmasters has given Jenilee the platform from which to grow and develop who she is as a speaker, a leader, and a person. She would not be who she is today without this organization or the many amazing people who she has met along the way.

Although she has been a member of a total of nine clubs throughout her Toastmasters' journey, she is currently a member of:

Cuyahoga Falls Toastmasters

Akron 151

Rise Higher (District 40)

Mikiko Thomas, DTM



Youngstown Club 408

Warren Ohio Club

I joined Youngstown 408 in 1995, a member for 25 year and also helped establish and joined Warren Ohio Club 4 and a half years ago. I have always enjoyed the meetings, so stimulating and fascinating.

Our 408 VP of PR, Art Byrd, DTM says:

"I am so glad Miki received her DTM.... There is a calmness and smoothness to Miki's speech delivery and her well thought out evaluations provided helpful encouragement at our meetings."

Wanda Tidmore, DTM



Parker SpeakEasies
Toastmasters

Wanda has been an active member of Parker SpeakEasies Toastmasters for 23 years. She admits that she took 'baby steps' throughout her Toastmaster's journey, her main focus was on the Leadership roles. "When the Traditional Toastmaster's program was coming to an end, I decided I had to pick up the pace and complete this race... I had 21 speeches and a workshop to complete in 8 months."

I could not have done this without the awesome support from the members of Parker SpeakEasies Toastmasters, "thank you for listening to me every week and participating in my workshop." Thanks to my family for your support and of course providing me with great speech topics.

A special thanks to my Mentor, Lisa Newburger for her constant support with keeping me on track and achieving my goal.

Completing my DTM is not the end of my Toastmaster's journey, it is the beginning of a new journey with Pathways.